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## Search for third-generation scalar leptoquarks and heavy right-handed neutrinos in final states with two tau leptons and two jets in proton-proton collisions at $\sqrt{s}=13$ TeV

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# Search for third-generation scalar leptoquarks and heavy right-handed neutrinos in final states with two tau leptons and two jets in proton-proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV



## The CMS collaboration

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**ABSTRACT:** A search is performed for third-generation scalar leptoquarks and heavy right-handed neutrinos in events containing one electron or muon, one hadronically decaying  $\tau$  lepton, and at least two jets, using a  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV pp collision data sample corresponding to an integrated luminosity of  $12.9 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  collected with the CMS detector at the LHC in 2016. The number of observed events is found to be in agreement with the standard model prediction. A limit is set at 95% confidence level on the product of the leptoquark pair production cross section and  $\beta^2$ , where  $\beta$  is the branching fraction of leptoquark decay to a  $\tau$  lepton and a bottom quark. Assuming  $\beta = 1$ , third-generation leptoquarks with masses below 850 GeV are excluded at 95% confidence level. An additional search based on the same event topology involves heavy right-handed neutrinos,  $N_R$ , and right-handed W bosons,  $W_R$ , arising in a left-right symmetric extension of the standard model. In this search,  $W_R$  bosons are assumed to decay to a tau lepton and  $N_R$  followed by the decay of the  $N_R$  to a tau lepton and an off-shell  $W_R$  boson. Assuming the mass of the right-handed neutrino to be half of the mass of the right-handed W boson,  $W_R$  boson masses below 2.9 TeV are excluded at 95% confidence level. These results improve on the limits from previous searches for third-generation leptoquarks and heavy right-handed neutrinos with  $\tau$  leptons in the final state.

**KEYWORDS:** Beyond Standard Model, Hadron-Hadron scattering (experiments)

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## 1 Introduction

A number of extensions of the standard model (SM) have been proposed that predict an enhanced production rate for events containing pairs of quarks and pairs of third-generation leptons. One such theoretical proposal involves the existence of particles called leptoquarks (LQs), which carry color charge, fractional electric charge, and both lepton and baryon quantum numbers. The LQs arise in many models, including grand unified theories [1], compositeness models [2, 3], and superstring theories [4]. If LQs exist, they will decay into a lepton and a quark. At the CERN LHC, LQ pairs are predominantly produced via gluon-gluon fusion and quark-antiquark annihilation. Based on the latest experimental constraints reviewed in [5], we assume that contribution of t-channel production of LQ pairs involving Yukawa coupling of a LQ, a lepton, and a quark, is small and neglected in this analysis and the main free parameter is the mass of LQ. However, the branching fraction for the decay of a LQ into a quark and a charged lepton,  $\beta$ , depends on the details of the model under consideration. In this analysis we focus on the decay of a pair of third-generation LQs resulting in two  $\tau$  leptons and two jets originating from b quark fragmentation.

A similar final state is expected in theories that postulate that the masses of the familiar left-handed neutrinos arise not from the Higgs field, but from a mechanism that involves the existence of right-handed neutrinos. One of the appealing features of left-right (L-R) symmetric extensions [6] of the SM is that these models predict the existence of new heavy charged ( $W_R$ ) and neutral ( $Z_R$ ) gauge bosons that could be produced at LHC

energies. Heavy neutrinos ( $N_e, N_\mu, N_\tau$ ) naturally arise as the right-handed (RH) partners of the SM neutrinos in these L-R extensions through the see-saw mechanism [7].

In this paper, we search for these two processes by selecting final states containing two  $\tau$  leptons and two jets originating from the hadronization of quarks. A search for pair production of third-generation scalar LQs is pursued by looking for events containing two  $\tau$  leptons and two b quarks. We also search for the production of a  $W_R$  boson from quark-antiquark annihilation. A heavy right-handed neutrino is produced from the decay of the  $W_R$  boson following the decay chain  $W_R \rightarrow \tau + N_\tau$ , where  $N_\tau \rightarrow \tau + W_R^* \rightarrow \tau + q\bar{q}$ . In both searches, we focus on signatures with one of the  $\tau$  leptons decaying into an electron or a muon, referred to as a leptonic decay  $\tau_\ell$  in the following, and the other  $\tau$  lepton decaying hadronically, denoted by  $\tau_h$ .

Previous searches for third-generation LQs have been carried out at pp,  $p\bar{p}$ ,  $e^+e^-$ , and ep colliders and the most recent results are given in [8, 9] and references therein. The most stringent lower limit on the mass of scalar third-generation LQs to date, based on the final state with two  $\tau$  leptons and two b jets and assuming  $\beta = 1$ , is 740 GeV at 95% confidence level (CL), from the CMS experiment [10, 11]. Previous searches for heavy neutrinos have been performed at LEP [12, 13], excluding heavy neutrino masses below approximately 100 GeV. Further searches at LHC have been performed in the dielectron and dimuon channels and have excluded  $W_R$  bosons with mass up to 3 TeV using data taken at 7 TeV [14] and at 8 TeV [15]. Using  $2.1 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of data of 13 TeV pp collisions collected in 2015, the CMS experiment searched for heavy neutrinos and right-handed charged bosons using events in which both  $\tau$  leptons decay hadronically. That analysis excluded  $W_R$  bosons with masses below 2.35 (1.63) TeV at 95% CL, assuming the  $N_\tau$  mass is 0.8 (0.2) times the mass of  $W_R$  boson [11]. In the present search, we use a  $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$  pp collision data sample corresponding to an integrated luminosity of  $12.9 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  collected with the CMS detector in 2016.

## 2 The CMS detector and Monte Carlo event samples

The central feature of the CMS apparatus is a superconducting solenoid of 6 m internal diameter, providing a magnetic field of 3.8 T. Within the solenoid volume are a silicon pixel and strip tracker, a lead tungstate crystal electromagnetic calorimeter (ECAL), and a brass and scintillator hadron calorimeter, each composed of a barrel and two endcap sections. Extensive forward calorimetry complements the coverage provided by the barrel and endcap detectors. Muons are detected in gas-ionisation detectors embedded in the steel flux-return yoke outside the solenoid. A detailed description of the CMS detector, together with a definition of the coordinate system used and the relevant kinematic variables, can be found in ref. [16].

The first level of the CMS triggering system, composed of custom hardware processors, uses information from the calorimeters and the muon detectors to select the most interesting events in a fixed time interval of less than  $4 \mu\text{s}$ . The high-level trigger processor farm further decreases the event rate from around 100 kHz to less than 1 kHz.

Background and signal processes are modeled using the following simulated samples. The PYTHIA v8.205 generator [17] is used to model the signal and diboson (WW, WZ, and ZZ) processes. The LQ signal samples are generated with LQ masses ranging from 250 to 1500 GeV in steps of 50 GeV. The branching fraction of the LQ to a  $\tau$  lepton and a bottom quark is assumed to be 100%. The signal samples are normalized to the next-to-next-to-leading order [18, 19]. The  $W_R$  signal samples are generated with  $W_R$  boson masses ranging from 1000 to 4000 GeV in steps of 500 GeV and the cross sections are computed in ref. [20]. The MADGRAPH v5.1.5 generator [21] is used to model W+jets and Z+jets processes. Single top production and  $t\bar{t}$  process are modelled with the POWHEG 2.0 [22–24] generator. The NNPDF 3.0 [25] Parton Distribution Functions (PDF) are used, and all simulated samples are interfaced with PYTHIA with the CUETP8M1 tune [26] to describe parton showering and hadronization. Additional inelastic pp interactions (pileup) generated by PYTHIA are overlaid on all simulated events, according to the luminosity profile of the analyzed data. All the generated signal and background samples are processed with the simulation of the CMS detector based on GEANT4 [27]. Small differences between data and simulation in trigger, in particle identification and isolation efficiencies, and in the resolution of the  $p_T$  of jets and missing transverse momentum are corrected by applying scale factors to simulated events, as detailed below.

### 3 Event reconstruction and selection

The particle-flow (PF) algorithm [28, 29], which exploits information from all subdetectors, is used to identify individual particles, such as charged and neutral hadrons, muons, electrons, and photons. These reconstructed particles are used as input for reconstructing more complex objects such as  $\tau_h$  candidates, jets, and variables like missing transverse momentum.

The reconstructed interaction vertex with the largest value of  $\sum_i (p_T^i)^2$ , where  $p_T^i$  is the transverse momentum of the  $i$ th track associated with the vertex, is selected as the primary vertex of the event. This vertex is used as the reference vertex for all the objects reconstructed using the PF algorithm.

Electrons are reconstructed by matching the energy deposits in the ECAL to tracks reconstructed in the silicon pixel and strip detectors. The electrons selected in this analysis are required to have transverse momenta  $p_T > 50$  GeV and pseudorapidity  $|\eta| < 2.1$  [30]. The identification and isolation of electrons are based on a multivariate technique [31] and selected electrons must satisfy tight electron identification and isolation criteria.

Muon reconstruction starts by matching tracks in the silicon tracker with tracks in the outer muon spectrometer [32]. A global muon track is fitted to the hits from both tracks. Muons are required to have  $p_T > 50$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.1$ . Quality selection criteria are applied to the muon tracks to distinguish muons originating from particle collisions with those muons coming from cosmic rays. In addition, muons are required to pass isolation criteria to separate prompt muons from those associated with a jet, usually from the semileptonic decays of heavy quarks.

The hadron-plus-strips algorithm [33, 34] is used to reconstruct  $\tau_h$  candidates. It starts from a jet and searches for candidates produced by the main hadronic decay modes of a  $\tau$  lepton: either directly to one charged hadron, or via intermediate  $\rho(770)$  and  $a_1(1280)$  mesons to one charged hadron plus one or two neutral pions, or three charged hadrons. The reconstructed  $\tau_h$  is required to have  $|\eta| < 2.3$  and  $p_T > 50$  ( $p_T > 60$ ) GeV in the LQ (heavy RH neutrino) search. Hadronic tau lepton decays are identified by a multivariate technique that uses as inputs the isolation of the  $\tau_h$  and variables that are sensitive to its lifetime. A selection criterion is used that has an efficiency of approximately 65% for identifying hadronically decaying tau leptons and a probability of less than 1% for misidentifying jets as hadronic tau decays. Additional criteria are applied to remove electrons and muons reconstructed as  $\tau_h$  candidates.

The identified electron or muon and the  $\tau_h$  are required to originate from the same vertex and be spatially separated by  $\Delta R \equiv \sqrt{\Delta\phi^2 + \Delta\eta^2} > 0.5$ . To suppress background events such as diboson and Z+jets with bosons decay giving a final state with a pair of leptons, events containing additional electron or muon candidates with  $p_T > 15$  GeV, and which pass loose identification and isolation criteria, are rejected.

Jets are reconstructed using the anti- $k_T$  algorithm with a distance parameter of  $R = 0.4$  [35, 36] using PF candidates. The jet energy is corrected for the average contribution from particles from other proton-proton collisions in the same or neighbouring bunch crossings (pileup) [37]. Additional corrections are applied to better reflect the true total momentum of the particles in the jet [38]. Selected jets are required to be within  $|\eta| < 2.4$  and have  $p_T > 50$  GeV, and to be separated from the selected electron or muon and the  $\tau_h$  by  $\Delta R > 0.5$ . Further identification requirements are applied to distinguish genuine jets from those coming from pileup [39].

The transverse momentum imbalance,  $(\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}})$ , is calculated as the negative vectorial sum of transverse momenta of all PF candidates, and corrected by propagating the corrections applied to identified jets [40]. A correction is applied to account for the effect of additional pileup interactions. In addition, several filters are employed to veto events with large  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  caused by detector effects.

Candidate events were collected using a set of triggers requiring the presence of either an electron or a muon candidate with  $p_T > 45$  GeV.

The search for LQs is based on a sample of events containing one light lepton, one  $\tau_h$  candidate, and at least two jets. At least one of the two leading jets is identified as originating from b quark hadronization (b-tagged) using the combined secondary vertex algorithm [41]. The chosen b tagging working point corresponds to an identification efficiency of approximately 70% with about 1% misidentification rate from light quarks. The lepton and  $\tau_h$  candidate are required to have opposite electric charge. There are two possible combinations of two tau candidates, with two jets, and the combination that minimises the difference in masses between the two resulting tau candidate-jet systems is chosen. Additionally, the invariant mass of the system formed by the visible particles of the  $\tau_h$  candidate and a jet is required to be greater than 250 GeV.

The search for a  $W_R$  boson decaying into a heavy neutrino uses the same data sample as used by the LQ search. The  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  is required to be above 50 GeV and the invariant mass of the light lepton and the  $\tau_h$  is required to be greater than 150 GeV.

In the LQ analysis, the fraction of signal events passing all selection cuts ranges between 1 and 5% for masses between 300 and 1500 GeV, and in the  $W_R$  analysis the fraction varies between 2 and 7% for masses between 1 and 4 TeV.

The presence of a signal is investigated by analysing the distribution of  $S_T$ . This is defined as the scalar sum of the  $p_T$  of the electron or muon, the  $\tau_h$  candidate, the two jets, and the missing transverse energy.

## 4 Background estimation

Several SM processes can mimic the signatures explored in this search. Production of  $t\bar{t}$  pairs is the dominant background because of the presence of genuine leptons,  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$ , and both light- and heavy-flavour jets. Additionally, the production of a W or Z boson in association with jets, production of a diboson or a single top quark, and Quantum ChromoDynamics (QCD) multijet processes can also contribute to the SM background contributions.

Simulated  $t\bar{t}$  events are reweighted according to the top quark  $p_T$  distribution measured in data [42, 43]. The normalization and shape of the  $t\bar{t}$  background is then verified by comparing to a data sample that consists of events containing an electron, a muon, and at least two jets and including all final selection requirements. The purity of  $t\bar{t}$  events in this sample exceeds 95%. Signal contamination in this control region is found to be negligible and does not affect the comparison of data with simulation even in the tail of the  $S_T$  distribution. The normalization and shape of the  $t\bar{t}$  simulated sample agree well with those observed in data. Thus, the simulation is used to predict the  $t\bar{t}$  background in the signal region.

The W+jets background arises mainly from events with a genuine electron or muon originating from the leptonic decay of a W boson and an initial- or final-state radiation jet misidentified as a  $\tau_h$  candidate. The normalization and shape of the W background are obtained from simulation and a correction factor is applied to the normalization to take into account differences between data and simulation. The W background correction factor is estimated in a data sample that consists of  $W \rightarrow \mu\nu$  events with three or more jets. One of the jets is required to pass the  $\tau_h$  identification criteria. To reduce the contamination from  $t\bar{t}$  background, events containing jets that pass the b tagging criteria are rejected. The expected signal contamination in this sample is negligible. A binned maximum likelihood fit to the transverse mass distribution of the muon and  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  is then performed to derive the W background normalization correction factor. The transverse mass distribution is found to have the most discriminating power for separating the W background from the other backgrounds. As an input to the fit, the normalization and shape of all other contributions are estimated from simulation. The uncertainties in the cross sections of all backgrounds are included as nuisance parameters in the fit. The contamination from QCD multijet events is small and derived from simulation. The best fit value for the W normalization correction factor is found to be  $1.0 \pm 0.2$ , with the uncertainty including both statistical and systematic components.



A similar procedure is repeated for the  $e\tau_h$  channel in a control region containing events with an electron and three or more jets. The W+jets normalization factor measured in  $W \rightarrow e\nu$  events is found to be consistent with the normalization factor derived in  $W \rightarrow \mu\nu$  events, albeit with a slightly larger uncertainty.

The contribution of the QCD multijet background to the signal region in both the  $\mu\tau_h$  and  $e\tau_h$  channels is estimated from data. Events in the multijet control region are selected by inverting the  $\tau_h$  identification criteria: the  $\tau_h$  candidate is required to pass looser, but to fail tighter, identification criteria. The events are weighted by the  $p_T$ -dependent probability for a jet satisfying loose isolation criteria to pass the tight  $\tau_h$  isolation criteria. This probability is measured as a function of jet  $p_T$  for  $e\tau_h$  and  $\mu\tau_h$  channels separately, in independent data samples that are composed of events in which the lepton fails the isolation criteria and has the same charge as  $\tau_h$  candidate. This probability varies from 20% for a jet  $p_T$  of 50 GeV to 2% for a jet  $p_T$  of 400 GeV and is similar for both final states.

In addition to the principal backgrounds, which are estimated as discussed above, other minor backgrounds, arising from single top quark, Z boson, and diboson production, are estimated from simulation. The relative contributions of all these backgrounds are given in tables 1 and 2, in section 6. In these tables, the electroweak background represents the sum of the backgrounds from W+jets, Z boson, and diboson production. Additionally, for each channel the background estimation is compared with the observed data and with an estimated representative signal.

## 5 Systematic uncertainties

The results of the analysis are obtained from a binned fit to the  $S_T$  distributions in the  $e\tau_h$  and  $\mu\tau_h$  channels. Systematic uncertainties may affect the normalization and/or the shape of the  $S_T$  distribution of the signal and background processes.

The uncertainty in the integrated luminosity of the analysed dataset amounts to 6.2% [44]. Uncertainties in the muon and electron identification and trigger efficiency are determined using the “tag-and-probe” technique [45] and amount to 2% for identification and 5% for trigger efficiencies. The  $\tau_h$  identification efficiency [33, 46] is measured in bins of  $\tau_h$  candidate  $p_T$  in  $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$  and  $W \rightarrow \tau\nu$  events and fitted by a linear function within the range 20 to 200 GeV. The uncertainty in the  $\tau_h$  identification efficiency measurement is 6% for  $\tau$  leptons from the decay of Z bosons. The extrapolation to higher transverse momenta is taken into account by adding an uncertainty that increases linearly with  $p_T$  and has a value of 20% for a  $p_T$  of 200 GeV. This uncertainty has a direct effect on the  $S_T$  distribution and hence is considered as a shape uncertainty. Changes in the acceptance due to the uncertainty in the b tagging efficiency and in the mistag rate are measured to be between 3 and 5%, depending on the process. The uncertainty in the normalization of the  $t\bar{t}$  background due to the PDF and scale uncertainties amounts to 5% [47, 48]. A 10% uncertainty is attributed to the Z boson background estimate, while the uncertainty in both the diboson and single top background estimates amounts to 15% [49]. The uncertainty in the yield of QCD multijet and W+jet backgrounds amounts to 30%. The uncertainty in the signal acceptance due to the choice of the PDF set in the simulated sample is evaluated



in accordance to the PDF4LHC recommendations [48, 50], by comparing the results obtained using the CTEQ6.6L, MSTW08, and NNPDF10 PDF sets [51–53] with those from the default PDF set (CTEQ6L1). This uncertainty amounts to 5% [11].

The energy scales (ES) of the  $\tau_h$  candidate and the associated jet affect the shape of the  $S_T$  distribution and normalization of the signal and background processes. The effects of ES uncertainties on the analysis are estimated by varying the  $\tau_h$  and jet energies within their respective uncertainties and recomputing  $S_T$  after the final selection. The uncertainty in the  $\tau_h$  ES amounts to 3% [33]. The uncertainty in the jet ES affects the  $p_T$  spectrum of the jets and consequently  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$ , and is applied to signal and all backgrounds that are estimated with MC simulation [54]. The uncertainties in the electron, muon, and  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  ES have a negligible effect on the  $S_T$  distribution. The uncertainty in the top quark  $p_T$  reweighting correction is derived by changing the event weight between zero and twice the nominal reweighting correction value [42, 43]. All these three uncertainties are treated as correlated between the  $e\tau_h$  and  $\mu\tau_h$  channels.

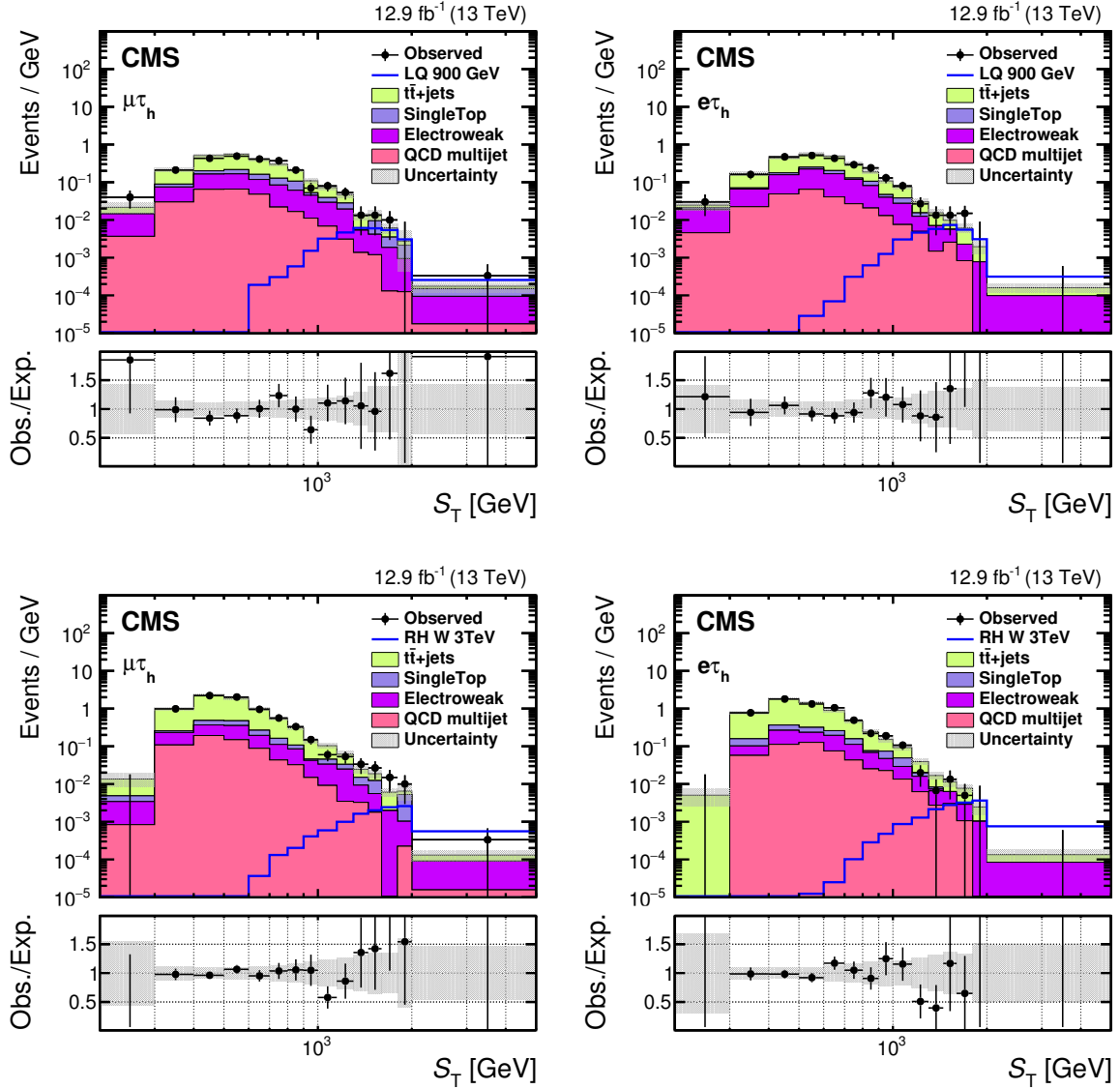
Finally, the effects of statistical uncertainties associated with the signal and background shapes or with the numbers of events in the data control regions are included in the analysis. The statistical uncertainties are uncorrelated across the bins in each background distribution [55].

Systematic and statistical uncertainties are represented by nuisance parameters in the fit. A log-normal probability distribution function is assumed for the nuisance parameters that affect the event yields of the various background contributions. Systematic uncertainties affecting the  $S_T$  distributions are assumed to have a Gaussian probability distribution function. Among those uncertainties, the  $\tau_h$  ES and high  $p_T$   $\tau_h$  extrapolation uncertainties are uncorrelated between the  $e\tau_h$  and  $\mu\tau_h$  channels, because of the different  $\tau_h$  identification criteria used to reduce the electron and muon mis-identification rate in each channel. The jet ES is treated as correlated across the two channels.

## 6 Results

A binned maximum likelihood fit to the  $S_T$  distribution has been applied to the  $e\tau_h$  and  $\mu\tau_h$  channels simultaneously. The signal production rate is constrained to the same value in the two channels. The  $S_T$  distributions for both the LQ and  $W_R$  analyses are shown in figure 1. Shape, normalization and uncertainty are shown for the values of nuisances parameters obtained from the fit. No excess is seen above the SM expectation within the statistical and systematic uncertainties in both searches. The event yields observed in the leptoquark analysis and in the heavy right-handed W boson analysis are shown in tables 1 and 2, respectively, and compared to background expectations and to the estimated event yields for representative signals.

Upper limits on the product of the cross section and branching fractions are set at 95% CL using a modified frequentist criterion  $CL_s$  [56, 57], based on the binned distribution of the  $S_T$  variable. Figure 2 (left) shows the observed and expected 95% CL upper limit on the product of cross section and branching fraction in the LQ analysis. The observed (expected) 95% CL mass limit for third-generation scalar LQ is determined to be 850



**Figure 1.** Measured  $S_T$  distribution in the  $\mu\tau_h$  (left) and  $e\tau_h$  (right) channels of the LQ (upper) and heavy RH neutrino (lower) analyses, compared to the expected SM background contribution. A hypothetical LQ signal of mass  $M_{LQ} = 900\text{ GeV}$  and a hypothetical heavy  $W_R$  signal of mass  $M_{W_R} = 3\text{ TeV}$  are overlaid to illustrate the sensitivity. The electroweak background represents the sum of W boson, Z boson, and diboson production. The last bin of each plot contains overflow events. A binned maximum likelihood fit is performed on the  $S_T$  distribution. The uncertainty bands represent the sum in quadrature of statistical and systematic uncertainties, obtained from the fit. The lower panels in all plots compare the observed and expected events in each bin.

Process	$e\tau_h$	$\mu\tau_h$
$t\bar{t}$ +jets	$136.8 \pm 13.2$	$145.6 \pm 14.6$
SingleTop	$15.7 \pm 3.1$	$27.6 \pm 4.5$
Electroweak	$69.6 \pm 10.5$	$53.3 \pm 9.0$
QCD multijet	$25.0 \pm 6.8$	$28.9 \pm 7.4$
Total expected background	$247.1 \pm 16.8$	$255.4 \pm 16.1$
LQ 900 GeV	$6.0 \pm 0.3$	$5.7 \pm 0.2$
Observed data	249	250

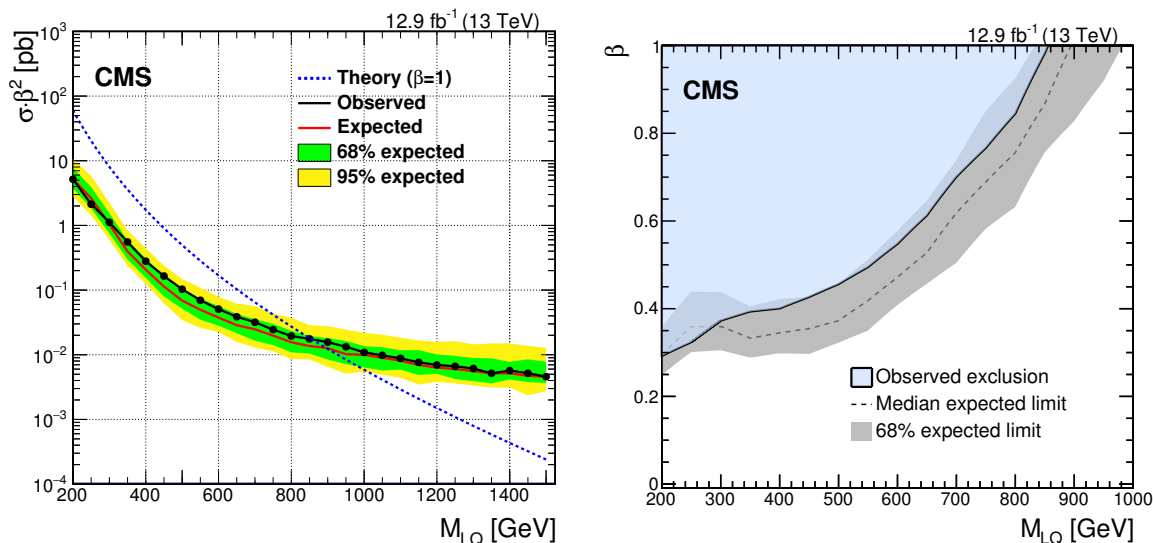
**Table 1.** Number of events observed in the  $e\tau_h$  and  $\mu\tau_h$  channels of the LQ analysis compared to the background expectations and to the event yield expected for a representative LQ signal of mass 900 GeV. The quoted uncertainties represent the sum of statistical and systematic uncertainties and are obtained by the binned maximum likelihood fit of the distribution in  $S_T$ , as described in the text.

Process	$e\tau_h$	$\mu\tau_h$
$t\bar{t}$ +jets	$456.2 \pm 25.8$	$557.6 \pm 30.7$
SingleTop	$41.6 \pm 7.1$	$47.6 \pm 8.1$
Electroweak	$60.2 \pm 26.8$	$83.6 \pm 33.2$
QCD multijet	$48.6 \pm 13.1$	$65.7 \pm 16.8$
Total expected background	$606.6 \pm 33.5$	$754.5 \pm 38.7$
RHW 3000 GeV	$4.8 \pm 0.3$	$3.5 \pm 0.3$
Observed data	606	751

**Table 2.** Number of events observed in the  $e\tau_h$  and  $\mu\tau_h$  channels of the heavy right-handed W analysis compared to the background expectations and to the event yield expected for a representative right-handed W boson signal of mass 3 TeV. The quoted uncertainties represent the sum of statistical and systematic uncertainties and are obtained by the binned maximum likelihood fit of the distribution in  $S_T$ , as described in the text.

(900) GeV, respectively, assuming  $\beta = 1$ , namely a 100% branching fraction for the LQ to decay into a  $\tau$  lepton and a bottom quark. Figure 2 (right) shows the 95% CL observed and expected exclusion limits on the LQ mass, as a function of  $\beta$ .

Figure 3 (left) shows the observed and expected upper limits at 95% CL on the product of cross section and branching fraction for the  $W_R \rightarrow \tau N_\tau$  analysis. Assuming the mass of the neutrino to be half the mass of the  $W_R$  boson, the observed (expected) limit at 95% CL on the mass of heavy right-handed  $W_R$  bosons is determined to be 2.9 (3.0) TeV, respectively. Figure 3 (right) shows the observed and expected 95% CL upper limits on the production cross section as functions of  $M_{W_R}$  and  $M_{N_\tau}$ . The blue curve in the left plot represent the theoretical production cross section of  $W_R$  boson times branching fraction of the  $W_R$  boson to a  $\tau$  lepton and RH neutrino, assuming mass of RH neutrino to be half the mass of  $W_R$  boson.



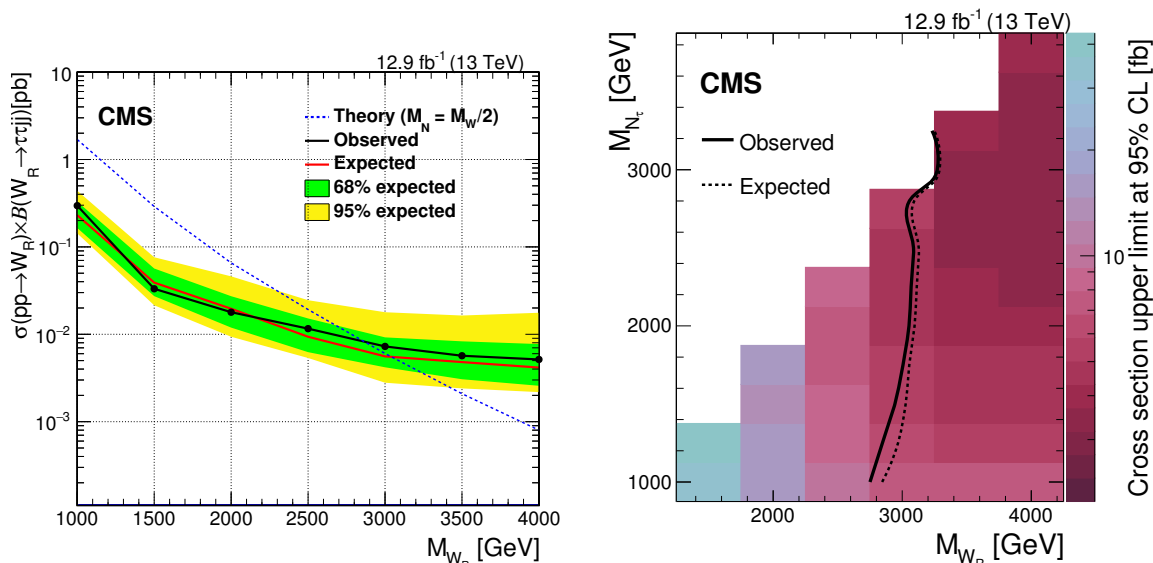
**Figure 2.** Observed and expected limits at 95% CL on the product of cross section and branching fraction squared, obtained from the combination of the  $e\tau_h$  and  $\mu\tau_h$  channels, in the LQ analysis (left) and 95% CL observed and expected exclusion limits on the LQ mass, as a function of  $\beta$  (right). In the left plot, the green and yellow bands represent the one and two standard deviation uncertainties in the expected limits. The dashed dark blue curve represents the theoretical LQ pair production cross section, assuming  $\beta = 100\%$  [18, 19]. In the right plot, the grey band represents the one standard deviation uncertainty in the expected limit.

## 7 Summary

Searches have been performed for third-generation scalar leptoquarks and for heavy right-handed neutrinos in events containing one electron or muon, one hadronically decaying  $\tau$  lepton, and two or more jets, using pp collision data at  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV, recorded by the CMS detector at the LHC and corresponding to an integrated luminosity of  $12.9\text{ fb}^{-1}$ . The data are found to be in good agreement with the standard model prediction in both analyses. A limit at 95% confidence level is set on the product of the leptoquark pair production cross section and  $\beta^2$ , where  $\beta$  denotes the branching fraction for the decay of the leptoquark into a  $\tau$  lepton and a bottom quark. Assuming  $\beta = 1$ , third-generation leptoquarks with masses below 850 GeV are excluded at 95% confidence level. In the heavy RH neutrino analysis, considering the decay  $W_R \rightarrow \tau N_R$  and assuming the mass of the heavy neutrino to be half the mass of the  $W_R$  boson, we exclude  $W_R$  boson masses below 2.9 TeV at 95% confidence level. These are the best mass limits to date for third-generation leptoquarks and heavy right-handed neutrinos with  $\tau$  leptons in the final state.

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**Figure 3.** Observed and expected limits at 95% CL on the product of cross section and branching fraction, obtained from the combination of the  $e\tau_h$  and  $\mu\tau_h$  channels in the heavy right-handed neutrino analysis (left) and the observed and expected limits at 95% CL on the production cross section as a function of  $M_{W_R}$  and  $M_{N_\tau}$  (right). The green and yellow bands represent the one and two standard deviation uncertainties in the expected limits. The dashed dark blue curve represents the theoretical prediction for the product of the  $W_R$  boson production cross section and the branching fraction for decay to a  $\tau$  lepton and RH neutrino, assuming the mass of the RH neutrino to be half the mass of the  $W_R$  boson [20].

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